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# Manual

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First Congregational Church,

Ridgefield, Connecticut.



1904







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HISTORICAL SKETCH

—AND—

MANUAL

OF THE

First Congregational Church

—IN—

RIDGEFIELD, CONN.

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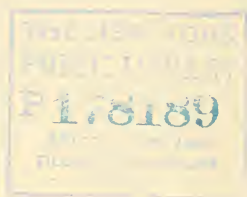
“Walk about Zion, and go around about her; tell the towers thereof.

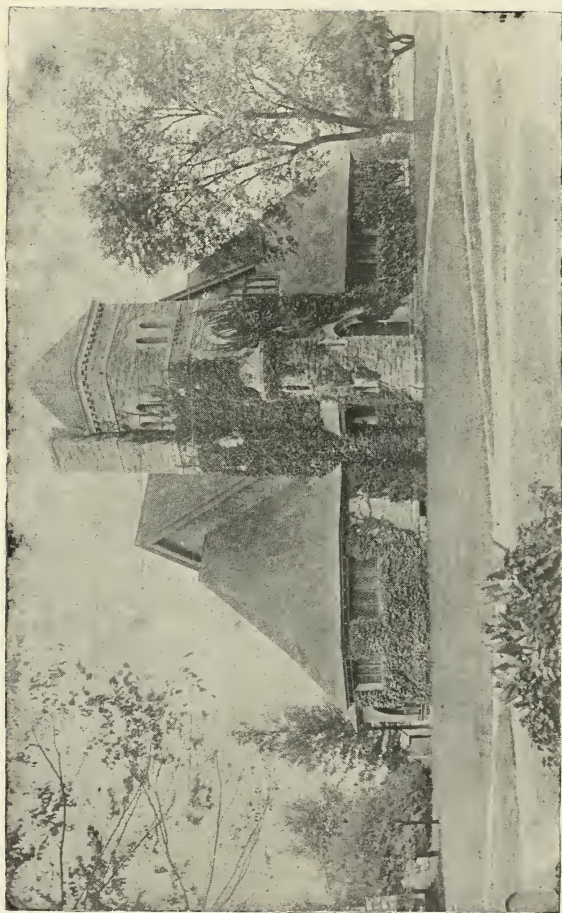
Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it unto the generation following.”—Ps. 48:12-13.

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, RIDGEFIELD, CONN. ERECTED, 1888.



## Historical Statement.

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The early minutes of this Church being entirely lost little is known of its origin beyond what is gathered from the first town records. From these we learn that the Township of Ridgefield was purchased from the Indians by a company of twenty-nine persons from Norwalk and Milford. The deed bears the date, 1707-8. One of the first acts of Proprietors was to appropriate one-twenty-eighth part of the lands purchased, for the support of the gospel. The precise time of the organization of the Church is not known, but on the 9th day of Oct., 1712, the General Assembly, upon petition of the inhabitants of Ridgefield, passed the following Resolution:

“This Assembly doth order that all the lands lying in the town of Ridgefield, be taxed, in proportion, for four years, towards the settling and maintaining of the ministry in the said town of Ridgefield.

“Test,                    HEZEKIAH WYLLIS, Secretary.”

In the year 1713 the Rev. Thomas Hawley, from Northampton, in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, the ancestor of several families that bear his

name, was officiating here in the ministry; hence we conclude that the church was organized as early as 1712-13. Mr. Hawley was chosen Town Clerk or Register, in the year 1714, which office he held until his death. He was eminently useful as a minister of the gospel, and under his ministration the Church flourished. He was also highly respected as a civil magistrate, and by the wisdom of his counsels, contributed very essentially to the prosperity and harmony of the town. Mr. Hawley died on the 8th day of November, 1738, and in the same year the town in legal meeting invited one Nathan Birdsey to become pastor. It does not appear, however, that Mr. Birdsey was ever settled here in the ministry, for in July, 1740, the Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll was "reglularly ordained and installed over the Church and congregation." Mr. Ingersoll was a native of the town of Stratford, Ct. He was settled in Ridgefield at the age of twenty-seven, and discharged with great fidelity and success the duties of his ministry until his death which occurred on the 2d day of Oct., 1778.

For a period of about eight years after the death of Mr. Ingersoll the Church was without a settled minister, although the pulpit was supplied in part, by the Rev. Justus Mitchell, who in January, 1783, was ordained pastor of the church in New Canaan, Ct.

On the 6th day of July, 1786, the Rev. Samuel Goodrich from Durham, in this state, was ordained and installed pastor of the Ridgefield Church. The services on this occasion, as transmitted by tradition and history, are represented to have been extremely

interesting in character. Mr. Goodrich was then only twenty-two years of age. His father, the aged and venerable minister of the gospel in Durham, preached the ordination sermon, and gave to his youthful son, and to the Church, a most solemn and impressive charge.

The labors of Mr. Goodrich were greatly blessed and the Church during his ministry enjoyed many seasons of revival, and large additions were made to its membership.

On the 22nd of January, 1811, by mutual agreement a meeting of the Consociation was held when Mr. Goodrich was regularly dismissed from the pastorate. Soon afterwards he settled at Worthington, in the town of Berlin, Ct., where he continued until his death, which occurred on the 19th of April, 1835.

The Church was again without a settled pastor for several years. Preaching of the gospel was, however, regularly kept up by the Rev. John Noyes, of Norfield Parish in the town of Weston, and Rev. Jonathan Bartlett, of Redding.

While Mr. Bartlett was preaching here, he proposed to the Society that a fund be raised the income of which should be appropriated for the support of the preaching of the gospel and as an encouragement to the undertaking, he generously donated the sum of fifty dollars. This gift formed the nucleus of the present permanent fund, the annual interest of which aids materially in the support of the work of the Church.

On the 2d day of February, 1817, the Rev. Samuel M. Phelps was invited to become pastor, and Consociation was convened on the 20th of

March following, for the purpose of his installation. For reasons which do not appear upon the church records the Consociation refused to proceed with the installation service; whereupon, on the 24th of March, the church seceded from the Consociation of the Western District of Fairfield County, and, with the Ecclesiastical Society, invited a body of ministers from the Westchester Presbytery to install the pastor-elect. This body met in the following June and, according to the usages and customs of the Presbytery, regularly installed Mr. Phelps as minister over the Church. He continued to serve the Church until December, 1829, when by the aforesaid Presbytery he was regularly dismissed from the pastorate.

The Church, at a regular meeting held May 31st, 1831, with great unanimity rescinded the vote of secession passed in Feb., 1817, and became reunited to the Consociation of the Western District of Fairfield county; and on the same day invited the Rev. Charles G. Selleck, of Darien, to become pastor. He was ordained and installed May 25, 1831, and continued to serve the Church until Sept. 6, 1837. The most perfect harmony existed between the Church and society and Mr. Selleck throughout his ministry and at his special request, he having received a call to serve the Presbyterian Church in Alton, Ill., was regularly dismissed by Consociation. As a result of three precious seasons of revival during Mr. Selleck's ministry 180 persons were added to the Church.

On Jan. 28th, 1838, an invitation was extended to the Rev. Joseph Fuller to become pastor and on



February 27 he was regularly installed by Consociation. Mr. Fuller ministered to the church for about four years and another season of revival was enjoyed and some sixty persons entered its membership. On May 17th, 1842, by the united request of Mr. Fuller and the church and society, the Consociation met and the pastor was regularly dismissed from his charge.

After the departure of Mr. Fuller the church was without a pastor for seventeen months, during which time the pulpit was regularly supplied and an interesting work of grace ensued and about twenty, mostly young persons, united themselves to the church by profession.

On the 18th of September, 1843, by unanimous vote of the church and society a call was extended to the Rev. James A. Hawley, and on the 25th of the following October he was duly installed. Mr. Hawley's connection as pastor continued until November 5, 1849, when at his request he was regularly dismissed by Consociation. During the years 1845 and '48 the church enjoyed seasons of revival and as a result 40 persons were added to its membership.

On May 6th, 1850, with marked unanimity on the part of the church and society, a call was extended to the Rev. Clinton Clark to become pastor. The call being accepted, the installation took place June 5, 1850. Mr. Clark's pastorate continued for nearly fourteen years, or until April 5, 1864, when at his own request he was regularly dismissed. During his ministry 115 united with the church of whom 76 were by profession; 60 marriages were

solemnized and 145 funerals attended by him. In consideration of long continued services the church by resolution extended to Mr. Clark: "Our most grateful acknowledgments and heartfelt thanks for all his labors among us, and it is with deep regret, that we part with one who has so long and faithfully discharged his duty to us in all the ministerial relations. \* \* \*"

After the dismissal of Mr. Clark the pulpit was supplied by various clergymen until the fall of 1865, when Rev. Samuel G. Coe, then recently dismissed from the pastorate of the First Congregational Church, Danbury, Conn., removed to Ridgefield as his place of residence. The Church desired Mr. Coe to become settled pastor but he preferred to labor without formal settlement, which he did with much acceptance till the fall of 1868.

In February, 1869, a call to the pastorate was extended to Rev. Pliny S. Boyd, of Shelbourne Falls, Mass., which was accepted and the installation took place on May 11 of the same year. Mr. Boyd having resigned was dismissed by Consociation in July, 1871. In November of the same year the Rev. Daniel W. Teller, of Hadlyme, Ct., was invited to serve the Church as acting pastor. The invitation was accepted and Mr. Teller continued in office until October, 1880.

In May, 1881, a call was extended to Mr. William W. Leete, at that time near the close of his seminary studies in New Haven, to become acting pastor for one year. Mr. Leete accepted and early in the following year was unanimously invited to become settled pastor and on February 8, 1882, was

ordained to the ministry and installed over the Church. During Mr. Leete's ministry and largely through his efforts a new church building was erected and the work of the Church extended and systematized. On May 22, 1888, he was dismissed by Consociation.

In January, 1889, the Rev. John W. Ballantine, then pastor of Pilgrim Church, Dorchester, Mass., was invited to become acting pastor and in August of the same year he accepted a call to become pastor and was installed on September 10th. Mr. Ballantine remained in office till 1900 when he resigned and was dismissed by Consociation April 3 of that year.

In September, 1900, a call to become acting pastor was extended to the Rev. Andrew W. Gerrie, recently pastor of the Congregational Church at West Torrington, Ct. The call was accepted and Mr. Gerrie began to serve the Church October 7, 1900.

It would seem, therefore, that during the nearly 200 years of its existence the church has been served by fourteen pastors, as follows:

Thomas Hawley, 1712-1738.

Jonathan Ingersoll, 1740-1778.

Samuel Goodrich, 1786-1811.

Samuel M. Phelps, 1817-1829.

Charles G. Selleck, 1831-1837.

Joseph Fuller, 1838-1842.

James A. Hawley, 1843-1849.

Clinton Clark, 1850-1864.

Samuel G. Coe, 1865-1868.

Pliny S. Boyd, 1869-1871.

Daniel W. Teller, 1871-1880.  
William W. Leete, 1881-1888.  
John W. Ballantine, 1889-1900.  
Andrew W. Gerrie, 1900—

The following deacons have served the church:

Thomas Smith, — 1743.  
James Benedict, — 1762.  
Benjamin Benedict, — 1773.  
Elijah Hawley, —  
John Benedict, — 1814.  
Nathan Olmstead, — 1805.  
Elisha Hawley, 1790-1850.  
Ebenezer Hawley, 1792—1821.  
Jere Scott, 1821-1843.  
Harvey Smith, 1831-1864.  
Rufus Keeler, 1831-1851.  
Samuel Hawley, 1832-1851.  
William W. Seymour, 1832-1883.  
John H. Benedict, 1848-1871.  
Jesse L. Benedict, 1852-1892.  
Calvin H. Kendall, 1852 —  
William O. Seymour, 1873-1891.  
Aaron C. Keeler, 1873 —  
Benjamin K. Northrop, 1884 —

In the year 1891 it was decided by vote of the church that junior deacons should be elected for a term of three years, and in accordance with this arrangement the following persons have served the church for one or more terms: Abner H. Keeler, Richard W. Keeler, Arthur W. Northrop, John F. Holmes and Caro H. Northrop.

During the period of nearly one hundred years, of which there is any authentic record, five persons

have served the church in the capacity of clerk, viz: Nathan Smith, William Hawley, Smith B. Keeler, Jesse Bradley and Benjamin K. Northrop. The latter, at this date (1904), has completed a continuous and uninterrupted service of the exceptional duration of fifty years—a service efficient as it has been extended, to which the records of the past half century will testify.

Another long and faithful service rendered the church is that of Deacon Calvin H. Kendall as treasurer of Benevolences. Dr. Kendall held this position for thirty years, retiring in 1883.

The earliest reference to church building in Ridgefield is found in the following vote passed in town meeting on Dec. 19, 1723:

“Voted unanimously that a meeting-house shall be built.

“Test. THOMAS HAWLEY, Register.”

“At the meeting above said it was voted unanimously that the magnitude and proportion of the meeting-house above said shall be thirty-four feet wide; on the ground, forty feet long, and twenty-eight feet between the sill and the plate.

“Test. THOMAS HAWLEY, Register.”

It does not appear, however, that the work of building was commenced until the year 1725, when it was prosecuted with vigor.

The second house was built nearly on the site of the former during the years 1771-72. Its dimensions were 58 by 40 feet. This latter building was altered and repaired in 1833, when the whole interior work, including galleries and pulpit, was taken out and so arranged as to present the appearance of an entirely new house. The church, thus

repaired, was re-dedicated to God in the month of June, 1834. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Joel Mann, from Haggai ii:9: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of Hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of Hosts." The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered on this occasion. The services were solemn and were rendered particularly interesting by the presence of the Rev. and venerable Samuel Goodrich, the former beloved pastor of the church, who was providentially able to attend and assist in the exercises of the day.

In the summer of 1841 the exterior of the edifice was thoroughly repaired and several important additions and alterations were made. Subsequently a new bell, a new pulpit, together with other platform furnishings, and an organ added their attractions to the building, which, for more than a century, served the church as its meeting place.

In the year 1881 the question of erecting a new church building began to be agitated. After much deliberation it was decided to build and the selection of a site was discussed with much care. An offer of \$2,000.00 by the Town of Ridgefield to the Ecclesiastical Society for the surrender of its rights in the public square was finally accepted and a new site was sought for and found. Mr. Henry K. McHarg, in memory of his father, John McHarg, generously presented the society with a plot of ground on the south-west corner of Main street and West Lane. Upon this site, largely through gifts of friends of the church connected with it by family

ties, there was erected the present beautiful stone church, built of native granite and well equipped for modern church uses. The building was completed in 1888, and on Wednesday, July 18, of that year, was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. On the previous Sunday farewell services were held in the old church, when the pastor, Rev. W. W. Leete, gave a historical address in the morning, and at a union service in the evening resident pastors and non-resident sons of the church spoke words of reminiscence and congratulation.

The sermon at the dedication of the new church was preached by the Rev. Charles K. McHarg, of Cooperstown, N. Y., uncle of the donor of the site, and a great grandson of the Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll, second pastor of the church. His text was John 4:24. At the evening service addresses were made by neighboring clergymen and other sons of the church.

The first Sunday service in the new church was held on July 22, 1888, and on the following Sunday Mr. Leete preached his farewell sermon.

Since its dedication two noteworthy additions have been made to the historic interest and beauty and usefulness of the church.

In 1895 the Misses King caused to be erected in the church a bronze tablet in memory of their ancestor, the Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll, once pastor of the church. The tablet contains a picture of the old church in bas relief.

Again, in 1901, the same ladies placed in the tower a clock and chime of bells, in memory of their father, Mr. J. Howard King, who had been

for many years an interested member of the society and a friend of the church.

No record exists bearing on the beginning of Sunday-school work in Ridgefield, but persons born in the first quarter of the nineteenth century found a Sunday-school ready for their reception and instruction in Bible truth. It seems reasonably certain, therefore, that quite early in the history of the Sunday-school movement the Ridgefield church fell into line and provided classes for the religious instruction of the youth of the town.

In January, 1834, an organization of ladies, known as the "Ridgefield Lydian Society," was formed. This was the beginning of the Ladies' Aid Society of the present day. Article 2 of the early constitution reads as follows:

"The objects of this Society shall be to raise funds to promote the interests of such benevolent associations or pious individuals as shall from time to time be considered worthy our co-operation."

The year 1875 saw the organization of the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Auxiliary. This society aims not only to raise money for the work carried on by the "Woman's Board of Missions," but more especially seeks to awaken interest and disseminate information regarding the progress of God's Kingdom among the nations of the earth.

During the pastorate of the Rev. W. W. Leete, in the year 1886, a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized in the church.

Thus it appears that this ancient church from time to time renews her youth, and continues to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.



## The Creed of 1883.

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The following creed, prepared by a committee of the National Council of Congregational churches, is inserted here, not as a creed to be subscribed to, but as a general statement of what for substance of Doctrine is commonly accepted by churches of the Congregational order:

I. We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who is of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who is sent from the Father and the Son, and who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

II. We believe that the Providence of God, by which he executes his eternal purposes in the government of the world, is in and over all events; yet so that the freedom and responsibility of man are not impaired, and sin is the act of the creature alone.

III. We believe that man was made in the image of God, that he might know, love and obey God, and enjoy him forever; that our first parents

by disobedience fell under the righteous condemnation of God; and that all men are so alienated from God that there is no salvation from the guilt and power of sin except through God's redeeming grace.

IV. We believe that God would have all men return to him; that to this end he has made himself known, not only through the works of nature, the course of his providence, and the consciences of men, but also through supernatural revelations made especially to a chosen people, and above all, when the fullness of time was come, through Jesus Christ his Son.

V. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the record of God's revelations of himself in the work of redemption; that they were written by men under the special guidance of the Holy Spirit; that they are able to make wise unto salvation; and that they constitute the authoritative standard by which religious teaching and human conduct are to be regulated and judged.

VI. We believe that the love of God to sinful men has found its highest expression in the redemptive work of his Son; who became man, uniting his divine nature with our human nature in one person; who was tempted like other men, yet without sin; who, by his humiliation, his holy obedience, his sufferings, his death on the cross, and his resurrection, became a perfect Redeemer; whose sacrifice of himself for the sins of the world declares the righteousness of God, and is the sole and sufficient ground of forgiveness and of reconciliation with him.

VII. We believe that Jesus Christ, after he had risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, as the one Mediator between God and man, he carries forward his work of saving men; that he sends the Holy Spirit to convict them of sin, and to lead them to repentance and faith; and that those who through renewing grace turn to righteousness

and trust in Jesus Christ as their Redeemer, receive for his sake the forgiveness of their sins, and are made the children of God.

VIII. We believe that those who are thus regenerated and justified grow in sanctified character through fellowship with Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and obedience to the truth; that a holy life is the fruit and evidence of saving faith; and that the believer's hope of continuance in such a life is in the preserving grace of God.

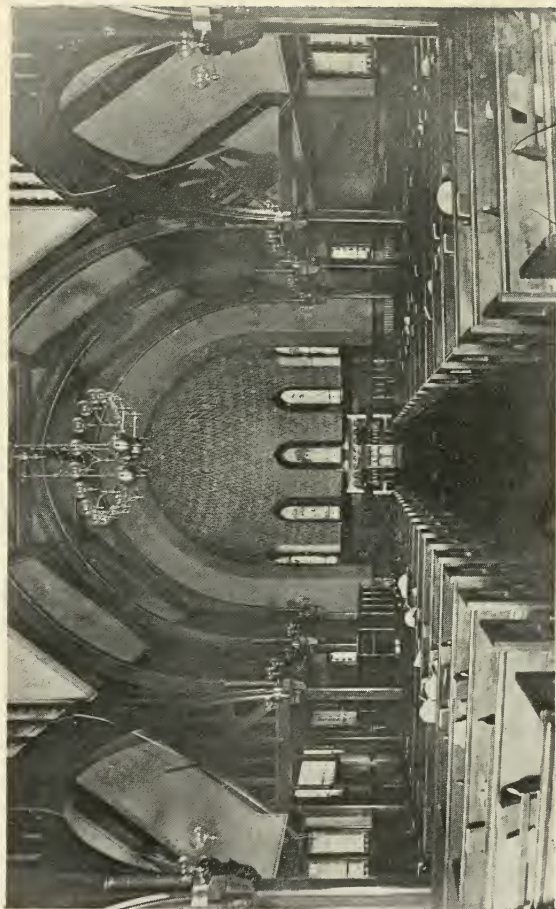
IX. We believe that Jesus Christ came to establish among men the kingdom of God, the reign of truth and love, righteousness and peace; that to Jesus Christ, the Head of his kingdom, Christians are directly responsible in faith and conduct; and that to him all have immediate access without mediatorial or priestly intervention.

X. We believe that the Church of Christ, invisible and spiritual, comprises all true believers, whose duty it is to associate themselves in churches, for the maintenance of worship, for the promotion of spiritual growth and fellowship, and for the conversion of men; that these churches, under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures and in fellowship with one another, may determine—each for itself—their organization, statements of belief, and forms of worship; may appoint and set apart their own ministers, and should co-operate in the work which Christ has committed to them for the furtherance of the gospel throughout the world.

XI. We believe in the observance of the Lord's Day as a day of holy rest and worship; in the ministry of the Word; and in the two Sacraments which Christ has appointed for his Church: Baptism, to be administered to believers and their children, as the sign of cleansing from sin, of union to Christ, and of the impartation of the Holy Spirit; and the Lord's Supper, as a symbol of his atoning death, a

seal of its efficacy, and a means whereby he confirms and strengthens the spiritual union and communion of believers with himself.

XII. We believe in the ultimate prevalence of the kingdom of Christ over all the earth; in the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the dead; and in a final judgment, the issues of which are everlasting punishment and everlasting life.



INTERIOR OF CHURCH.



## Some Ecclesiastical Principles.

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A Christian church is understood to be a body of professed believers in Jesus Christ, associated together for the promotion of His cause in the world, for the maintenance of the public worship of God, for mutual helpfulness and for the enjoyment of Christian ordinances.

A Congregational Church, in accordance with this idea is a society of persons united in bonds of fellowship as the confessed servants of the Lord Jesus Christ and meeting together statedly in one place.

Such a church is called Congregational because its government is vested in its members who however may not regard themselves as irresponsible members of a religious club, but as subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven, bound to follow the will of Christ their King.

Such a church is independent in that it is not managed by any external ecclesiastical authority, either in doctrine or discipline or mode of worship.

Any Conference or Consociation to which the church may belong, is looked upon simply as a voluntary fraternal association for fellowship, counsel, mutual assistance and public testimony but exercises no jurisdiction over the individual churches of which it is composed.

Nevertheless each church is expected to show a brotherly sympathy with other churches of the same order, to work and pray for the general good of all and to co-operate to the utmost of its power in the promotion and extension of Christianity at home and abroad.

## RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people.” Ps. 116:12-14.

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also, before my Father which is in Heaven.” Matt. 10:32.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Rom. 10:10.



## Baptism Administered to Those Who Have Not

### Already Received the Rite.

*(To candidates joining on confession.)*

Dearly beloved called of God to be His children through Jesus Christ our Lord, you are here that in the presence of God and His people you may enter into the fellowship and communion of His church.

, Confessing and turning away from all sin, you heartily receive Jesus Christ as your crucified Saviour and risen Lord, you consecrate yourself unto God and your life to His service, you accept His word as your law and His spirit as your comforter and guide; and trusting in His grace to confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, you promise to do God's holy will and to walk with this church in the truth and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accepting, according to the measure of your understanding of it, the system of Christian truth held by the churches of our faith and order, and by this church into whose fellowship you now enter, you join with ancient saints, with the church throughout the world, and with us your fellow believers in reciting the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker  
of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ, His only son our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born  
of the Virgin Mary;  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
dead and buried; He descended into hell;  
The third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
The Holy Catholic Church; the communion  
of saints;  
The forgiveness of sins;  
The resurrection of the body;  
And the life everlasting. Amen.

*(Members coming by letter to be addressed as follows.)*

Confessing the Lord whom we unitedly worship,  
you do now renew your self consecration as you  
transfer your membership in the visible church of  
Christ to this our particular Communion and join  
in this our personal covenant. :—

*(All Candidates Standing)*

You do here and now enter into solemn coven-  
ant with this Church of Jesus Christ; you accept a

share in its privileges and duties; you promise to love and watch over its members as brethern; you pledge yourself to submit to the government of this church and to attend its worship, to engage in its work, to uphold its discipline, to promote its purity and harmony, and to contribute of your means and ability to its support, you engage to aid its undertakings in a spirit of hearty and prayerful co-operation so long as you remain in its membership.

*(Church Standing)*

We then, the members of this church, joyfully and cordially receive you into our communion, we promise to watch over you in love as becometh the children of one Father; to aid you by our counsel and prayers, and to walk with you as God shall give us grace, in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless; that being found faithful unto death, as heirs of the grace of God we may inherit the promises and eventually meet among the redeemed to rejoice in the presence of our Lord forever more.

“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power both now and forever. Amen.”

## Counsels for Church Members.

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1. As to Personal Religion:

Diligently study the Word of God. Have frequent intercourse with God in secret prayer. Resist all temptation and avoid even the appearance of evil.

2. As to Family Religion:

(a) Heads of Families—Early acknowledge your children as belonging to God and dedicate them to Him. Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Let an altar for worship be erected in your dwelling.

(b) Young Christians—"Obey your parents in the Lord." "Flee youthful lusts." "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

(c) Employers—In dealing with servants, forbear threatening and render to them justice and equality. Remember that their Master and yours is in Heaven and that, there is no respect of persons with Him.



OLD CHURCH. 1772-1888.

W.A. CAHILL.



(d) Servants—Let your service be performed conscientiously, cheerfully and faithfully. “Do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men.”

3. Duties to the church:

Love your fellow members as brethren. Keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Attend regularly the means of grace and seek to profit by them. Strive to co-operate in all schemes of usefulness undertaken by the church. Give liberally and cheerfully for the support of religion and the spread of the gospel. Pray earnestly and habitually for your pastor, for Sunday-school superintendent and teachers and for all others entrusted with special duties in the church. Forbear criticism and remember that personal and individual responsibility for the well-fare of the church cannot be lightly set aside.

4. Duties to the World:

“Be not conformed to the world.” “Let your light so shine before men.” Lose no opportunity to impress upon the world how much you value your christian faith and the privileges and services of the church to which you belong. Follow after that which is true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report.

5. Public Worship:

“Forsake not the assembling of yourself together.” “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God.” “Bring an offering and

come into His Courts. “Do not absent yourself for any petty or insufficient cause. Endeavor to be in your place a few minutes before the appointed hour. Pray both before and after for God’s blessing on the service. Bear your part mentally in prayer and orally in praise, Seek to be reverent and worshipful throughout the entire service.

6. Week Night Services:

You are earnestly urged to attend the mid-week, and such other services as the church may appoint from time to time, as a means of maintaining and promoting spiritual life. If unfortunately, it should happen at any time that you seem to derive but little personal profit from these meetings remember that there will always be those in the church and community who need such services, and therefore it will be your privilege to help sustain and strengthen them by your presence for their sake. “Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.



# Constitution.

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## ARTICLE I

This church shall be called the First Congregational church of Ridgefield, Connecticut.

## ARTICLE II

The object of this church shall be the promotion of the interests of the Kingdom of God in general and the advancement of the spiritual welfare of all its members in particular. It shall proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; Keep up religious worship and strive to aid in the support of all Christian enterprises whenever possible.

## ARTICLE III

Recognizing that the church is responsible for the religious instruction and training of the young, this church shall maintain and support one or more Sunday or Bible schools for carrying forward this particular part of its work. The Sunday-school is regarded by the church as an integral part of its

own life, and is therefore to be considered under its immediate watch and care.

#### ARTICLE IV

Other organizations formed in connection with the church for purposes of religious or Christian ministration, or for mutual improvement in social or other ways shall be regarded as under the care of the church, and such organizations shall hold themselves amenable to the general oversight of the Pastor and Prudential Committee.

#### ARTICLE V

The government of this church shall be exercised by its membership in meeting assembled; provided that only members who are fifteen years of age and over and who are not under censure or discipline shall have the right of voting.

#### ARTICLE VI

The conditions of membership in this church shall be satisfactory evidence of Christian faith, piety and baptism and (except under peculiar circumstances) a public acknowledgement of the covenant and the confession of faith which it includes.

#### ARTICLE VII

The officers of this church shall be a pastor, four or more deacons, Sunday school superintendent, a clerk, a treasurer, a standing committee to be known as the Prudential Committee and composed of the above named officers together with one or more persons chosen from the membership of the church, also an auditor.

## Standing Rules.

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### MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the church for the choice of officers and the transaction of other customary and necessary business, shall be held on the first Monday in April.

The pastor presides ex-officio at all church meetings, and in his absence, the senior deacon present.

Special meetings may be called by the pastor, or the prudential committee, and must be called by the clerk at the written request of five members of the church, the object of such meeting being stated in the call.

All elections shall be by ballot unless otherwise decided by vote of the meeting.

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

(a) The pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs, and when mutually agreeable, shall be installed by Council of Consociation.

(b) On and after this date (1904) deacons shall be chosen for a period of three years, and no person

shall be eligible for re-election until one year after his term of service has expired.

(c) The Sunday school superintendent, elected annually by the church, shall have charge and oversight of the school for Bible study. The Sunday school may nominate a candidate for the office, and present the same for action by the church.

(d) The clerk shall keep a record of church membership, a register of deaths, dismissions, baptisms, etc., and discharge such other duties as usually devolve on such an officer.

(e) The treasurer shall take charge of and disburse, under the direction of the prudential committee, the money contributed for the poor and for church expenses. He shall also receive and forward the contributions made for benevolent objects. At the annual church meeting, (or at such other times as it may be called for,) he shall present to the church a full and detailed statement of receipts and disbursements, such statement having been previously referred to the auditor.

### COMMITTEES.

(a) It shall be the duty of the prudential committee to have in charge the examination of candidates for admission to the church. It may delegate the examination to one or more members chosen from its own membership or from the church at large, using in each case the method that seems best adapted to ascertain the candidate's fitness for church membership. After such examination the committee shall report to the church for action.

The committee shall further aid in all matters of discipline, as provided in the article relating to that question, and shall assist and advise generally in all matters connected with the welfare of the church.

(b) At each annual meeting the church may appoint a music committee of three or more members, who shall, in consultation with the regular committee of the Ecclesiastical Society, have charge of all matters connected with the psalmody of the church.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

(a) Applications for membership, whether on confession or by letter, shall be made to the prudential committee of the church, and when approved, shall be propounded to the church at least one week before the communion service.

(b) Applications for letters of dismissal and recommendation shall be made to the prudential committee, and when approved by them, shall be announced at any regular meeting of the church for consideration, and if granted, the clerk shall issue the customary certificate. It is expected that members on removing to other towns will, within one year after such removal, ask for letters of dismissal and recommendation; and it is deemed a breach of covenant for any member to withdraw from the communion of this church and unite with another without making such application. If for any cause absentees desire to remain in connection with this church, they are expected to make known such desire, that mutual fellowship may be continued

and the church be able to act intelligently should a letter of dismissal be sought.

(c) Any person who desires to have his name erased from the church roll, if no charges are pending against him, shall be entitled, after due labor and upon vote of the church, to have his name removed from the list of membership.

(d) The church reserves the right, after due labor, to withdraw the privileges of membership from any person who, without satisfactory explanation, has absented himself for a period of three years.

## Discipline.

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Matt. 18: 15-17, is a Divine exposition of the principles and spirit, and so far as it is practicable, the process of church discipline, and we feel ourselves authorized to exercise discipline as a Divinely appointed means of vindicating the honor of the gospel, maintaining the purity of the church, and reforming and restoring offenders. See also Gal. 6: 1.

(a) No charges shall be preferred to the church until after they shall have been considered by the prudential committee.

INTERIOR OF OLD CHURCH







(b) Should any unhappy differences arise between members, the aggrieved party shall follow, in a tender spirit, the rule laid down by our Lord in Matt. 18.

(c) Should any case of gross breach of covenant or public scandal occur, the prudential committee shall endeavor to remove the offense, and if such effort fail, shall report the case to the church.

(d) If the church vote to sustain the complaint, which must be made in writing, it shall appoint a reasonable time and place of hearing, and notify the person in question thereof, furnishing him with a copy of the charges.

(e) At such hearing the accused member may call to his aid any member of the church as counsel. If he shall not present himself at the time appointed or give satisfactory reasons for failing to do so, the church may proceed in his absence.

(f) All such proceedings should be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance; but should an adverse decision be reached, the church may proceed to admonish the offender, or declare him to be no longer a member of the church.

(g) In case of grave difficulty, if deemed wise in the interests of all concerned, the church stands ready to ask the advice of a mutual council.

## Amendments.

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This church is intended to be governed in all respects, not otherwise provided for, by the ordinary rules of Congregational churches.

The foregoing constitution and standing rules may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote, two weeks' notice of such proposed amendment having been given.

## Members.

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Commencing with the pastorate of Rev. Samuel M. Phelps.

All persons joining the church prior to 1840 are deceased.

Deceased members after that date to April 1, 1904, are indicated by a (\*) placed before their names; (l) received by letter; all others by profession. (d) Dismissed.

The name of a woman in parenthesis ( ) is her maiden name; the name following is her married name.

From records the following named persons were communicants of the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, Conn., October, 1822:

Hannah Scott,	Thomas H. Rockwell
John Benedict,	Jesse S. Bradley
Esther Benedict, wife of John,	Betsey Bradley, wife of Jerre
Nathan Smith,	Elizabeth Smith
Jane Smith, wife of Nathan.	Joannah Sturges
Keziah Hawley,	Sally Smith
Jared Olmstead,	Henry Olmstead
Hannah Olmstead,	Rachel Nash
John Watrous,	Uriah Marvin
Eleanor Watrous, wife of John,	Rebecca Northrop
Daniel Smith,	Mehitable Benedict
Dorcas Stebbins,	Isaac Lewis

Jared Northrop,	Althea Smith
Hannah Northrop, wife of Jared.	Fanny Olmstead
Joanna Benedict,	Chauncey Bouton
James S. Watrous,	Polly Bouton
Sally Watrous,	Ezra Benedict
Elizabeth Keeler,	Amos S. Marvin
Bradley Hull,	Dorcas Keeler
Hannah Hoyt,	Nathaniel Seymour
Rebecca Fowler,	Benjamin Keeler, 3d
Jonah Keeler,	Stiles Hawley
Rebecca Keeler, wife of Jonah.	Matilda Jones
Esther Olmstead,	Abigail Northrop
Betsey Staples,	Delia Stebbins
Joseph Northrop,	Theodosia Hoyt
Cynthia Hawley,	Jacob Jones
Ruth Bradley,	Sally Jones
Matthew Olmstead,	Esther Seymour
Elisha Hawley,	Walter Olmstead
Charity Hawley, wife of Elisha,	Jared St. John
Matthew Keeler,	Catharine Keeler
Ruth Keeler, wife of Matthew,	Eliza Keeler
Sarah Olmstead,	Betsey Seymour
Sarah Jackson,	Charlotte Seymour
Jeremiah Keeler,	Emily Seymour
Sally Keeler,	Emeline Gedney
Sarah Smith,	Sarah Scott
Betsey Hawley,	Clarissa Saunders
Catharine Hawley,	Eli Foote
Betsey Lee.	William Comstock
Abigail St. John,	Samuel S. Olmstead
Delia Dauchy,	Thaddeus Seymour
Abigail Smith,	Abian Seymour
Maria Smith,	William G. Smith
Clemence Smith,	George Keeler
Matthew Seymour,	Nathan H. Price
Betsey Seymour,	Laura Price, wife of Nathan
Sally Seymour,	Matilda Keeler
Hepzibah Bettis,	Sally Keeler
Ama Resseguie,	Betsey Burritt

Nathan Olmstead,	Anna M. Northrop
Elizabeth Gilbert,	Polly Comstock
Sally Gilbert,	Emily Thorp
Priscilla Bouton,	Edwin Benedict
Lewis Olmstead,	Stephen Jones
Sally Olmstead,	Maria Jones
James Scott,	Samuel M. Phelps
Lucretia Scott, wife of James	Eliza Phelps, wife of Samuel M.
Wakeman Burritt	Anna Northrop
Amelia Burritt, wife of Wakeman	Gould Scott
Jere Scott	Martha Scott, wife of Gould
Amelia Scott, wife of Jere	Rachel Smith
Seth Bouton	Betsey Lyon
Phebe Bouton, wife of Seth	Martha Burr
Ruth Scott	Jere A. Scott

No dates when the above were admitted to membership.

1828

Ruhama Northrop, wife of Josiah

1831

Nathaniel Marvin	Jesse E. Keeler
Salla A. Marvin, wife of Nathn'l	Lorenzo Hoyt
Rufus Keeler	Rufus N. Seymour
Ann Eliza Keeler, wife of Rufus	Betsey A. Seymour
Ann Crocker	Abigail Seymour
Nancy Crocker	William W. Seymour
Emily G. Selleck	Harriet Seymour, wife of Wil-
Nancy Jones	liam W.
Betsey Chapman	Lewis C. Seymour
Ebenezer Hoyt	Daniel B. Bouton
Noah Smith	Henry Osborn
Phineas Chapman	Benjamin Smith
Chauncey W. Olmstead	Amos Smith
Burr Keeler	Emma Smith
Maria E. Keeler, wife of Burr	David Keeler
George Kirkland	Jane C. Olmstead

Ebenezer Hawley	Ellen Pardee
Maria A. Olmstead	Laura Keeler
Abby L. Gedney	John J. Kendall
Ebenezer Bennett	John Borden
Laura Bennett, wife of Ebenezer	Delia A. Borden, wife of John
Sally Jewett	Philip B. Bradley
Jesse L. Benedict	William H. Bradley
John H. Benedict	Abraham Holmes
Harriet E. Butler—	Esther Holmes, wife of Abraham
Clark P. Smith	David H. Gedney
Daniel S. Smith	Edward Hawley
Bradner Scott	Eli S. Benedict
Samuel Dewick	Thomas L. Wyatt
Lockwood Olmstead	Daniel Banks
David C. Keeler	Caroline Betts
John Stuart	Abby Stebbins
William Hawley	Mary A. St. John
Jane Daggett	Albert Scott
Elizabeth Hawley	Benajah T. Betts
Mary A. Hawley	Jane A. Benedict
Grace I. Hawley	Sarah A. Dewick
Ann Smith	Betsey Barnum
Catharine Lockwood	Woodbury Storer
Charles Wallace	Elizabeth Hoyt
Oscar Weed	Charles Seymour
Samuel Hawley	Ann Seymour, wife of Charles
Betsey Hawley, wife of Samuel	Aaron Betts
Eliza K. Staples	Elcey Betts, wife of Aaron
Jesse S. Bradley	John King
David Scott	James P. Fitch
Betsey Scott, wife of David	Eli Morgan
Henry F. Olmstead	Mary A. Parmalee
Caroline Olmstead	Laura Stuart
Harvey Smith	Emily Mead
Lois Smith, wife of Harvey	Lucy Smith
Betsey Sears	Amelia B. Smith
Abigail Stebbins	Julia Scott
Aaron B. Betts	Delia Smith
Esther M. Betts, wife of Aaron B	Samuel Canfield

1832

Roxy Nash	Marietta Lewis
Job Smith	Grace King
Esther Smith	David Dunning
Ruth Olmstead	John Keeler
Cyrus Northrop	Nathan Smith
Polly B. Northrop, wife of Cyrus	Sally S. Smith, wife of Nathan
Harriet E. Betts	Elijah Hawley
Lucy Beers	Betsey Hawley, wife of Elijah
Sarah W. Olmstead	Egbert Mead
Sophia Perry	Zephaniah Miller
Amos M. Keeler	Rufus H. Pickett
Mary Hawley	Betsey Pickett, wife of Rufus H.
Hannah Hoyt	Erastus S. Boughton
Sally M. Keeler	Tammy Boughton, wife of Erastus
Mary Perry	William Osborn
Ira Benedict	John Keeler, 2d
Harvey Betts	Thaddeus R. Olmstead
Fanny Betts, wife of Harvey	Thomas Northrop
Maria Ruscoe	Solomon C. Keeler
Elizabeth Beers	Justus Banks
Anna D. Ferris	Lucretia Benedict
Elizabeth Benedict	William F. Barker
Smith B. Keeler	Melissa Barker, wife of Wm. E.
Raymond H. Seeley	Jared Northrop
Cynthia U. Fitch	

1833

Walter Smith	Polly Smith
Esther Smith, wife of Walter	Sally Keeler, wife of Benjamin
Julia A. Edmonds	William A. Mead
Marietta Hawley	

1834

Edward Williams	David J. Edmonds
Sally C. Williams, wife of Edw'd	Lucy Edmonds, wife of David J.

1835

Sally Hoyt	Hannah B. Keeler
Sally Ann Betts	Mary A. Brush
Mary Betts	Ann Eliza Seymour

1836

Lucinda Banks	Thaddeus Keeler
Wakeman Burritt	Jonathan A. Ayres
Lucy H. Burritt, wife of Wakeman	Jane Ayres, wife of Jonathan
Henry Burritt	Sally M. Mills
Sally Keeler, wife of Matthew	

1837

Bradley Banks	Sally E. Olmstead
Esther Warren	Anna Mead
Mary D. Keeler	Ebenezer Hawley

1838

Thomas Hawley	Emily Banks
Hannah Keeler	Polly E. Bouton
Jane B. Smith	Anah Nash
Mary R. Sturges	Ada Seymour
Catharine Benedict	Eunice Keeler
Icy P. Nash	Jane Keeler

1839

Nathaniel Seymour	Maria Benedict
Delia Betts	Mary S. Jones

1840

* Russell Jones	* Mary Keeler, wife of Hervey
d Harriet Jones, wife of Lewis Benedict	d Fanny E. Smith
* Harvey W. Smith	d George H. Sanford
* Henry C. Brush	* Harriet O. Seymour, wife of Rufus N.
* Samuel Olmstead	d Daniel Gregory
* Esther Ann Keeler, wife of George	* George A. Hobby
* Elizabeth N. Grumman, wife of Charles	d Jane E. (Smith) Ruscoe
* Jeremiah Stebbins	d Elizabeth A. (Foote) Smith
* Susannah Stebbins, wife of Jeremiah	d Mary Foote, wife of Eli
* Fanny A. Betts	* Catharine (Keeler) Northrop
* George L. Bennett	d Delia Jennings
* Mary D. Bennett, wife of George L.	d Mary E. Bradley, wife of Jesse S.
	* Susan Lynes
	d Abram S. Nash
	d Julia A. Boughton



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|---|---|
| <i>d</i> Margaret (Hawley) Coolidge-<br>Brown | <i>d</i> Henry S. Hawley                            |
| <i>d</i> Elizabeth (Northrop) Jones           | * Elizabeth Benedict                                |
| <i>d</i> Sarah A. (Smith) Trowbridge          | * Eliza Seymour, wife of Sher-<br>man               |
| <i>d</i> Ruth M. (Keeler) Peck                | * Sarah Lewis, wife of Isaac                        |
| * Eliza Ann Jones, wife of<br>Russell         | * Harriet (Olmstead) Benedict                       |
| * Hannah Keeler, wife of Jere-<br>miah        | * Betsey Keeler                                     |
| * Daniel Partrick                             | <i>l</i> Nathan Byington <i>d</i>                   |
| * Josiah Northrop                             | * Charles Grumman                                   |
| <i>d</i> Alexander Shannon                    | * Elizabeth Smith                                   |
| <i>d</i> Charles H. Betts                     | * Marietta E. Monroe                                |
| * David Northrop                              | <i>l</i> Martha A. Whiting <i>d</i>                 |
| * Clarissa Northrop, wife of<br>David         | * Polly Gregory                                     |
| * David K. Hoyt                               | * Clarissa Perry, wife of David                     |
| * Joseph Stebbins                             | * Abigail Stebbins, wife of Joseph                  |
| <i>d</i> Seth Smitn                           | * Molly St John                                     |
| Mary E. (Smith) Beers                         | * Esther Benedict, wife of Josiah<br>Phillis Dubois |
|   | <i>d</i> Mary Mills                                 |
|   | <i>l</i> Aaron Northrop *                           |

1841

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>l</i> William Fenn * | <i>l</i> Mary Fenn, wife of William <i>d</i> |
|-------------------------|--|

1842

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| * Ann M. Blackman             | * Elizabeth (Jewett) Harrison <i>d</i> |
| <i>d</i> Frederick A. Crissey |  |

1843

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Stephen Smith <i>d</i>                | * Mary G. (Keeler) Hoyt            |
| <i>l</i> Maria Smith, wife of Stephen <i>d</i> | Jane Keeler                        |
| <i>l</i> Jane Whitford <i>d</i>                | <i>d</i> Elizabeth (Keeler) Hawley |
| <i>l</i> Alvin Smith <i>d</i>                  | * Mary (Jewett) Hoyt               |
| <i>l</i> Mrs. Alvin Smith <i>d</i>             | * Julia E. B. Smith                |
| <i>d</i> Charles N. Olmstead                   | * Eliza H. (Benedict) Mead         |
| Benjamin K. Northrop                           | <i>d</i> Anna M. (Barker) Gedney   |
| * Jacob G. Keeler                              | * Esther Keeler                    |
| <i>d</i> Burr Scott                            | * Adeline Olmstead                 |

- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| * James R. St John          | Sarah Northrop                       |
| * Margaret Seymour, wife of | <i>d</i> Mary E. (Keeler) Silliman   |
| Hiram                       | <i>l</i> Elizabeth Olmstead, wife of |
| * Abigail Smith             | Charles <i>d</i>                     |
| Elizabeth A. Hoyt, wife of  | * Mehitabel Smith                    |
| David K.                    |                                      |

1844

- |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Elizabeth Stebbins, wife of | <i>d</i> Mary A. Hawley, wife of |
| Jesse                         | Rev. James                       |
| <i>l</i> William R. Hoyt *    | * Sally Blackman                 |

1845

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Ann Holmes <i>d</i>            | <i>d</i> Lewis Olmstead             |
| <i>l</i> Calvin H. Kendall              | <i>d</i> Esther E. (Edmonds) Small  |
| <i>d</i> Hugh S. Banks                  | * Sherman M. Seymour                |
| <i>d</i> Rosalia Banks, wife of Hugh S. | <i>d</i> Samuel Seymour             |
| * Fitch B. Reeler                       | * Martha Pardee                     |
| Sarah A. Keeler                         | <i>l</i> Henry Middlebrook *        |
| Linus O. Northrop                       | <i>d</i> Caroline (Keeler) Jones    |
| <i>d</i> John Benedict                  | <i>d</i> Catharine (Keeler) Pickett |
| <i>d</i> William H. Smith               | <i>d</i> Julia A. (Borden) Houseman |
| Edwin S. Hoyt                           | <i>d</i> Isabella (Pickett) Slater  |
| <i>d</i> Almira (Hoyt) Pardee           | <i>d</i> Rufus Starr Pickett        |
| * Ruth A. Whitford                      | <i>d</i> James D. Smith             |
| <i>d</i> Ebenezer Smith                 | <i>d</i> George W. Slater           |
| <i>d</i> Sarah Jane (Lyon) Smith        | <i>l</i> Matthew Seymour *          |
| <i>d</i> Clarissa Brush, wife of Hen-   | <i>l</i> Sarah St John *            |
| ry C.                                   | <i>l</i> Josiah G. Bronson *        |
| <i>d</i> Lucy (Northrop) Husted         | <i>l</i> Sarah T. Bronson, wife of  |
| * Catharine Olmstead                    | Josiah G. <i>d</i>                  |
| <i>d</i> William T. Barker              | <i>l</i> Jane A. Kendall, wife of   |
| <i>d</i> Sarah Perry                    | Calvin H. *                         |
| Adaline E. (Scott) Main                 | <i>l</i> Ellen Northrop, wife of    |
| * Milan H. Mead                         | David, 2d *                         |
| <i>d</i> Alfred Platt                   | <i>d</i> Cornelia L. Williams       |
| <i>d</i> Edward B. Jones                | May Moore                           |
| * David Northrop, 2d                    |                                     |

1846

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Harriet (Benedict) Burchard <i>d</i> | <i>l</i> Henrietta Keeler, wife of |
| * Russel B. Keeler                            | Jonah C. *                         |
| * Timothy O. Scott                            | <i>l</i> Hannah Smith <i>d</i>     |
| <i>l</i> Jonah C. Keeler <i>d</i>             |                                    |

1847

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Sarah A. Wilcox <i>d</i>     | <i>l</i> Charles E. Hawley *       |
| <i>l</i> Catharine C. Wilcox <i>d</i> | <i>l</i> Joanna B. Hawley, wife of |
| <i>l</i> Sarah E. Close <i>d</i>      | Charles E. <i>d</i>                |
| <i>l</i> Cinderella Britto <i>d</i>   | <i>l</i> Ann St John <i>d</i>      |
| <i>l</i> Abby L. Gedney <i>d</i>      | <i>d</i> James H. St John          |
| <i>l</i> William E. Catlin <i>d</i>   | * Anna Seymour                     |

1848

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>d</i> Aaron Northrop              | <i>d</i> Harriet E. Smith          |
| <i>d</i> Harriet E. (Olmstead) Mid-  | <i>d</i> Jane L. (Bennett) Hart    |
| dlebrook                             | <i>l</i> Edwin Northrop *          |
| <i>d</i> Charles Keeler              | <i>l</i> Mary A. Northrop, wife of |
| <i>d</i> George Keeler               | Edwin *                            |
| <i>d</i> Francis M. Lovejoy          | * Eliza Gilbert                    |
| Antoinette (Barrett) Benedict        | * Hepzibah Jones                   |
| <i>d</i> Chauncey L. Olmstead        | * Delia A. Seymour                 |
| * Harriet (Scott) Gilbert            | <i>d</i> Samuel O. Northrop        |
| <i>d</i> Margaret C. (Olmstead) Hall | * William Henry Northrop           |
| <i>d</i> Rebecca J. (Keeler) Morris  | <i>d</i> Aaron L. Northrop         |
| * Elizabeth S. Keeler                | <i>d</i> Benjamin Partrick         |
| <i>d</i> Elizabeth A. Keeler         | <i>d</i> Timothy K. Wilcox         |
| <i>d</i> Cornelia J. (Dikeman) Gray  |                                    |

1849

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Mary C. Sherwood *   | * Mary E. Paddock, wife of A. Y.  |
| * Rebecca S. Seymour, wife of | <i>l</i> Pamela (Reed) Benedict * |
| William O.                    |                                   |

1850

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Lewis B. Hyatt <i>d</i>    | * Matilda Wallace              |
| <i>l</i> Harry N. Northrop <i>d</i> | <i>l</i> Jane Sproull *        |
| <i>l</i> Jane E. Northrop, wife of  | <i>l</i> Hannah Banks <i>d</i> |
| Harry N. <i>d</i>                   | * Delia Banks                  |

1851

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| * Lydia H. Keeler, wife of             | <i>d</i> Horace Hall         |
| Daniel K.                              | Ellen F. Moore               |
| <i>d</i> Margaret V. Kirk              | Margaret F. Hawley           |
| <i>d</i> Emeline Darrin                | * Ruth A. Parks              |
| <i>l</i> Lois A. Shaw, wife of Alvah * | <i>l</i> Julia Pike <i>d</i> |
| <i>d</i> Mary (Keeler) Jennings        | <i>d</i> Mary E. Allerton    |
| <i>d</i> Mary M. (Wallace) Marvin      | William O. Seymour           |
| Anna M. Resseguie                      |                              |

1852

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>l</i> Edward Couch *          | <i>d</i> Edward Trowbridge              |
| <i>l</i> Ellen Couch *           | <i>l</i> Rev. Seneca M. Keeler <i>d</i> |
| <i>l</i> Susan Rockwell <i>d</i> | <i>l</i> Mary D. Clark, wife of Rev.    |
| <i>d</i> Elizabeth Edwards       | Clinton <i>d</i>                        |
| <i>d</i> Sarah F. Olmstead       | <i>l</i> Mary Sherwood <i>d</i>         |

1853

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| * Frances Pickett                 | <i>d</i> Patterson Holmes                      |
| Mary J. Couch, wife of Edward J.  | <i>l</i> Angeline (Scott) Burr <i>d</i>        |
|                                   | * Alva Shaw                                    |
| <i>d</i> Sarah E. (Foote) Sproull | <i>d</i> Cyrus Northrop, Jr.                   |
| <i>d</i> Caroline (Banker) Mead   | <i>l</i> Sarah A. Nash, wife of Abram <i>d</i> |

1854

- l* Hannah Mead \*

1855

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>d</i> Cornelia E. (Benedict) Duncan | * Russell R. Keeler                 |
| Harriet E. Benedict                    | <i>d</i> Sylvester S. Bouton        |
| <i>d</i> Harriet M. Stebbins           | * Wakeman F. Seymour                |
| <i>d</i> Maria E. (Partrick) Booth     | * Richard O. Seymour                |
| <i>d</i> Charles St John               | <i>d</i> Christopher S. Olmstead    |
| <i>d</i> John William Holmes           | Henry Benedict                      |
| <i>d</i> James H. Knapp                | * Charles O. Benedict               |
| Aaron C. Keeler                        | <i>l</i> Sarah J. Byington <i>d</i> |
| * Edwin D. Pickett                     |                                     |

1856

Matilda St. John, wife of / Carrie A. Northrop, wife of  
James R. Aaron L. \*  
Emeline (Keeler) Benedict

1857

\* Margaret (Holmes) Northrop Elizabeth (Barrett) Partrick  
/ Saran J. (Holmes) Nash d / Ebenezer Jones \*

1858

\* Rebecca Olmstead, wife of d Emily F. Brush  
Jared N. Lucy A (Bouton) VanWinkle  
/ Darius Loder \* d Mary V. Smith  
d James B. Duncan d Fanny N. (Hawley) Eggleston  
d Henry Keeler Catharine M. (Moore) Fayer-  
weather  
/ Annie Bailey, wife of Lewis H. \* / Sarah C. Pickett, wife of Ed-  
George Haight win O. d  
d William P. Beardsley / Harriet F. Barker  
Catharine A. Stebbins d Annie E. Smith  
\* Polly Perry \* Dorcas A. Haight, wife of  
Mary Emma Keeler George  
d Mary C. (Brush) Keeler \* Sarah Holmes, wife of John  
Jared N. Olmstead William  
d John W. Keeler d Sarah A. Beardsley  
\* Sylvester Seymour d Emily F. Ruggles  
d Susan A. (Betts) Treadwell / Ruth A. Lee, wife of Edwin d

1859

Sarah Northrop, wife of Aaron / Frances J. Hoyt, wife of Edw.S.

1860

/ Oliver S. Hickok d

1861

\* Sally Burr d Martha J. (Brush) Weed  
Hancie Keeler d Mary A. De Forest

1862

*l* Rev. Whitman Peck *d*

1863

*d* Sabrina Scott, wife of Samuel \* Clara Olmstead, wife of William

1864

\* Sally Northrop, wife of David Margaret J. Moore

*l* Emma E. Keeler, wife of Aaron C. Charlotte O. Moore  
John F. Holmes

*d* Maria Lynes, wife of William *d* John C. Kendall

1865

\* George Main Cornelia F. Beers

*d* Harriet Main, wife of George \* Joel Benjamin

\* Stephen Bourne \* Harriet Benjamin, wife of Joel

\* Eliza Bourne, wife of Stephen *d* Emma C. Benjamin, wife of

*d* Reed Haviland Albert

1866

*l* Katie H. Coe *d* *d* Elizabeth A. (Grumman) Brown

*l* Jane Dann, wife of Charles *d* Albert M. Benjamin

*l* Bennett Bassett \* *l* Elcy Betts *d*

\* Mary A. Mead, wife of Russel *l* Abner L. Hart *d*

Elizabeth (Keeler) Morehouse, *l* William S. Todd \*

wife of Charles B. *d* Cornelia E. (Keeler) Peck

1867

Isadora P. Keeler *d* Charles A. Northrop

\* Lewis H. Bailey *l* William Hazlett *d*

Arvilla P. (Bailey) Keeler

1868

*l* Nancy C. Benedict, wife of *l* Albert N. Thomas *d*

Henry \* *l* Alice P. Thomas, wife of

*d* Mary A. (Holmes) Page Albert N. *d*

Rebecca M. Northrop *l* John D. Nash \*

*d* C. Fanny (Bassett) Kirke Ebenezer A. Hoyt

\* Nathan Smith *d* Anna E. (Mead) Bunnell

*l* Elijah L. Thomas \* *d* Adaline Benjamin

*l* Sarah N. Thomas, wife of \* Hannah Betts, wife of Wm.

Elijah L. *d* *d* Isabel Bradley

1869

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Pliny S. Boyd <i>d</i>               | <i>l</i> Hannah A. Smith <i>d</i> |
| <i>l</i> Mary J. Boyd, wife of P. S. <i>d</i> | <i>d</i> Ira S. Keeler            |

1870

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>l</i> Elizabeth H. Holmes, wife of<br>John F. | <i>l</i> Elizabeth K. Thomas, wife of<br>Lewis <i>d</i> |
| * Dora F. Williams                               |   |

1871

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>d</i> Wilbur M. Jennings        | <i>l</i> Julia F. Elwood, wife of Ed-<br>ward B. <i>d</i> |
| * Ann A. (Shaw) Wood               | Henrietta (Elwood) Seymour                                |
| Jennie E. Holmes                   | <i>l</i> Mary A. Mead *                                   |
| <i>l</i> Edward B. Elwood <i>d</i> |   |

1872

- |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Elizabeth Moore        | <i>l</i> Marv Hatch *               |
| <i>l</i> Betsey Hawley * | <i>l</i> Margaret F. (Hatch) Valden |

1873

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>d</i> George S. Kendall                                  | * Daniel Keeler                                    |
| Charles F. Hoyt   | * Theodore Johnson                                 |
| George I. Haight  | * Sarah Partrick                                   |
| * Lewis N. Thomas   | <i>d</i> Edwin K. Hoyt                             |
| Richard W. Keeler   | <i>l</i> Abram Fitch <i>d</i>                      |
| <i>d</i> Millard F. Phelan                                  | <i>l</i> Elizabeth Fitch, wife of Abram <i>d</i>   |
| * Oscar G. Main   | <i>l</i> Martha L. Riley <i>d</i>                  |
| <i>d</i> William Maurer                                     | Sarah A. Gilbert                                   |
| M. Evelyn Smith   | <i>d</i> Helen R. Trowbridge                       |
| Lucy P. Thomas  | <i>d</i> Orville H. Northrop                       |
| <i>d</i> Mary E. (Hoyt) Godfrey                             | <i>l</i> Emilie F. Teller, wife of Rev.<br>D. W. * |
| <i>l</i> Mary (Seymour) Jones, wife<br>of David L. <i>d</i> | Dolly (Phelen) Knapp                               |
| <i>d</i> Sarah A. (Kendall) Gorham                          | * Mary (Wakeman) Miller                            |
| <i>d</i> Hattie (Fitch) Haight                              | <i>l</i> Mary J. Todd, wife of Wm. S               |
| <i>d</i> Emma Duncan  | <i>d</i> Edward S. Elwood                          |
| <i>d</i> Otelia Butts                                       |  |

1874

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>d</i> Annie C. Haviland, wife of | <i>l</i> Martha M. Riley <i>d</i> |
| Reed                                | <i>d</i> Delia A. Beers           |
| * Harvey Burr                       | <i>d</i> Marietta (Beers) Bennett |
| <i>l</i> Henry Norton <i>d</i>      | <i>l</i> John B. Brush            |
| <i>l</i> Roxanna W. Norton, wife of |                                   |
| Henry <i>d</i>                      |                                   |

1875

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Archibald V. Paddock * | <i>l</i> Frederick A. Paddock * |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|

1876

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Minnie Whyms              | Lillian (Main) Baker |
| <i>d</i> Elbert H. Martin |                      |

1877

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> George McCullough *       | <i>l</i> Ellen J. McCullough * |
| <i>l</i> Eliza McCullough <i>d</i> |                                |

1878

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>l</i> Eunice G. (Brush) Campbell              | Henry H. Keeier                          |
| <i>l</i> Clara A. (Brush) Seymour                | Abner H. Keeler                          |
| Edward Phelan                                    | <i>d</i> Arthur B. Partrick              |
| Caro H. Northrop                                 | Frank R. Olmstead                        |
| Arthur W. Northrop                               | * Lottie A. Beckwith, wife of            |
| Horace W. Northrop                               | Sanford                                  |
| <i>d</i> Edward W. Keeler                        | <i>d</i> Nettie E. Thompson              |
| <i>d</i> J. Franklin Keeler                      | <i>d</i> Lillian F. (Scott) Farrell      |
| * Wm. Edward Benedict                            | Emma C. Main                             |
| <i>d</i> Edgar Teller                            | Joshua G. Riley                          |
| James D. Shaw                                    | <i>l</i> Leonora (Giles) Teller <i>d</i> |
| <i>l</i> John Mulliken <i>d</i>                  | * Burr Keeler                            |
| <i>l</i> Mary L. Mulliken, wife of John <i>d</i> | Augusta D. Smith, wife of                |
| <i>l</i> Irene E. Mulliken <i>d</i>              | Howard                                   |
| Rufus H. Seymour                                 | Marian H. Nash                           |
| * Charles H. Johnson                             | <i>l</i> George St John <i>d</i>         |
| William B. Johnson                               | <i>l</i> Mary Jennings, wife of Wm. H.   |



1879

Samuel D. Keeler	<i>d</i> Franklin N. Jennings
Jennie A. Keeler	<i>d</i> Marvin A. Taylor
Frederick Sturges	John P. Seymour
Katie F. Sturges, wife of Frederick	Ann A. Williams, wife of Sylvester

1882

<i>l</i> Rev. William W. Leete <i>d</i>	<i>l</i> Jennie Wilson, wife of Robert
<i>d</i> Edith A. Mills	<i>l</i> Charles S. Nash *
Jennie M. P. Ryan	<i>l</i> Jane E. Nash, wife of Chas. S.
* Mary E (Johnson) Cronk	* Mary E. Seymour
<i>d</i> Josephine G. Carlton	<i>d</i> Leonard L. Beckwith
Ada F. Seymour, wife of Rufus H.	<i>d</i> Christine N. Beckwith, wife of Leonard
<i>d</i> Lewis B. Griffin	<i>l</i> Roxanna Walker *
<i>d</i> Neils C. Hanson	

1883

<i>l</i> Sarah E. (Rockwell) Leete <i>d</i>	Annie L. D. (Ryfenburgh) Ackerman
<i>l</i> Martha Hoyt, wife of Chas. F.	
<i>l</i> Frances D. Keeler, wife of Ira S.	* Annie M. (Burr) Hoyt
	* Caroline A. Burr

1884

Samuel O. Seymour	* Clara Jane Gage, wife of D. Smith
<i>d</i> Douglas H. Oliver	

1885

<i>l</i> Eleanor Kendall, wife of Calvin H.	Jennie E. (Dann) Hull
<i>d</i> Luther R. Nash	<i>l</i> Lillie B. Northrop, wife of Caro H.

1886

Mary E. Hoyt, wife of Ebenezer A.	Mortimer C. Keeler
* Aaron B. Keeler	<i>d</i> Julia A. Edwards
<i>l</i> Martha Teller *	Jennie Ferris
	Eva L. (Sturges) Miller

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>l</i> Julia A. Austin <i>d</i> | <i>l</i> Mamie Ferris <i>d</i> |
| <i>l</i> Jane Teller <i>d</i>     | Mary L. (Bailey) Way           |
| <i>l</i> Mary A. Teller <i>d</i>  | <i>l</i> Emma Denike           |
| Samuel S. Denton                  | Ella Denike                    |
| Lena M. Denton, wife of Sam-      | William H. Brower              |
| uel S.                            | Clorinda Brower, wife of Wm.   |
| Carroll K. Weed                   | William R. Keeler              |

1887

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <i>d</i> Mary J. Staples, wife of<br>Frank | <i>d</i> Anna D. Burr |
|--|-----------------------|

1888

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mary D. Keeler, wife of<br>Samuel D. | <i>l</i> Julia A. Bradley Burt <i>d</i> |
| Lena E. Holmes                       | Emma J. Keeler, wife of<br>Ebenezer W.  |
| <i>l</i> John Hubbard *              |   |

1889

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>d</i> Hattie B. Main          | <i>l</i> H. Maria Ballantine, wife of<br>Rev. John W. |
| <i>l</i> Rev. John W. Ballantine |   |

1890

M. Louise (Beers) Lowe

1891

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alice A. Nichols, wife of<br>Samuel | <i>l</i> Mary C. Nichols, wife of S.<br>Edward |
| <i>d</i> Winfield B. Elwood         | <i>l</i> Anna E Northrop, wife of<br>Arthur W. |
| <i>d</i> Flora L. Elwood            | <i>l</i> Edith (Jennings) Hoyt *               |
| <i>d</i> Alice O. Harding           |  |

1892

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. Jonathan Burr | <i>l</i> Samuel Keeler |
|--------------------|------------------------|

1893

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Inez Mead, wife of Milan H.          | Jennie F. Hoyt                     |
| Hattie (Mead) Abbott                 | <i>d</i> Ella R. (Keeler) Gorman   |
| Faustina (Jennings) Scott            | <i>d</i> Effie L. (Beckwith) Smith |
| <i>d</i> Estelle (Bailey) Benjamin   | Netta Keeler                       |
| <i>d</i> Grace M. (Seymour) Crawford |                                    |

*d* Lizzie Hammond  
Howard D. Smith  
Harry E. Mead  
Howard P. Nash  
Orville W. Holmes

Carrie McCann  
*d* Ernest V. Haight  
*l* John Corrothers \*  
*l* Hattie Carrothers, wife of John

1894

Theron G. Hoyt

*l* Mary Louisa Hoyt, wife of T. G.

1896

Harvey P. Bissell  
*l* Flora Bissell, wife of Harvey P.  
Eva Hoyt Mead  
George Herbert Mead

*d* William Anderson  
Edward R. Smith  
*l* Bessie M. Weed, wife of  
Carroll K.

1897

*l* Margaret C. Johnson, wife of  
Henry  
*l* Grace R. Keeler, wife of  
Mortimer C.  
\* Henry Johnson

John H. Meeks  
H. May Hoyt  
Florence Hoyt  
Peter Dumans

1898

C. Ebenezer Gilbert  
Christie L. Jones

Annabella Stewart, wife of  
David C.

1899

*l* Susan Hodges  
*d* Laura Pickett  
Arthur H. Thomas  
Frederick D. Thomas  
Clifford A. Seymour  
Margaret B. Seymour  
Elsie M. Seymour

Irving S. Holmes  
*d* Benjamin G. Ellison  
Alice F. Bailey  
Wallace Bailey  
Theodore M. Haight  
Arthur Seymour  
Mary Ballantine

1900

Florence B. Keeler, wife of  
William R.  
Annie M. Cornen, wife of Cyrus

Olive A. Bailey, wife of Wallace  
*l* Nellie Shaw, wife of James D.

1901

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| / Rev. Andrew W. Gerrie                     | / Edith (Bailey) Richardson |
| / Emma M. Gerrie, wife of<br>Rev. Andrew W. |                             |

1902

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| / John Clarke                               | Claribel Gillum                           |
| Elizabeth Clarke, wife of John              | Maud E. Gillum                            |
| / David L. Jones.                           | Charles B. Morehouse                      |
| / Mary (Seymour) Jones, wife<br>of David L. | Georgiana Ryfenburgh<br>Bessie B. Gilbert |

1903

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| / James Clarke                 | / James H. Perry |
| / Lizzie Clarke, wife of James |                  |

## ERRATA.

Page 29, Council *or* Consociation.

Omissions in list of membership and minor errors as to admission, dismissal, etc.—(1845) Amos S. Holmes, *d*; (1852) Rev. Seneca M. Keeler, *d*, re-admitted *l* in 1891; (1853) \* Burr N. St John; (1857) Sarah J. (Holmes) Nash, *d*, re-admitted *l* in 1868; (1859) *d* Sarah Northrop, wife of Aaron; (1859) \* / Frances J. Hoyt, wife of Edw. S.; / Rev. Pliny S. Boyd, *d*; / Mary J. Boyd, wife of Rev. Pliny S. *d*; (1873) Mary (Seymour) Jones, wife of David L.; (1878) Horace W. Northrop, *d*, re-admitted *l* in 1890; (1878) Joshua D. Riley, *d*, re-admitted *l* in 1900; (1888) / Emma J. Keeler, wife of Ebenezer W. (1891) / Alice A. Nichols, wife of Samuel, *d*; (1893) / Lizzie Hammond, *d*; (1894) / Theron G. Hoyt; (1896) / Harvey P. Bissell; (1899) / Laura Pickett, *d*; (1902) / Clara Bartow. ✓













